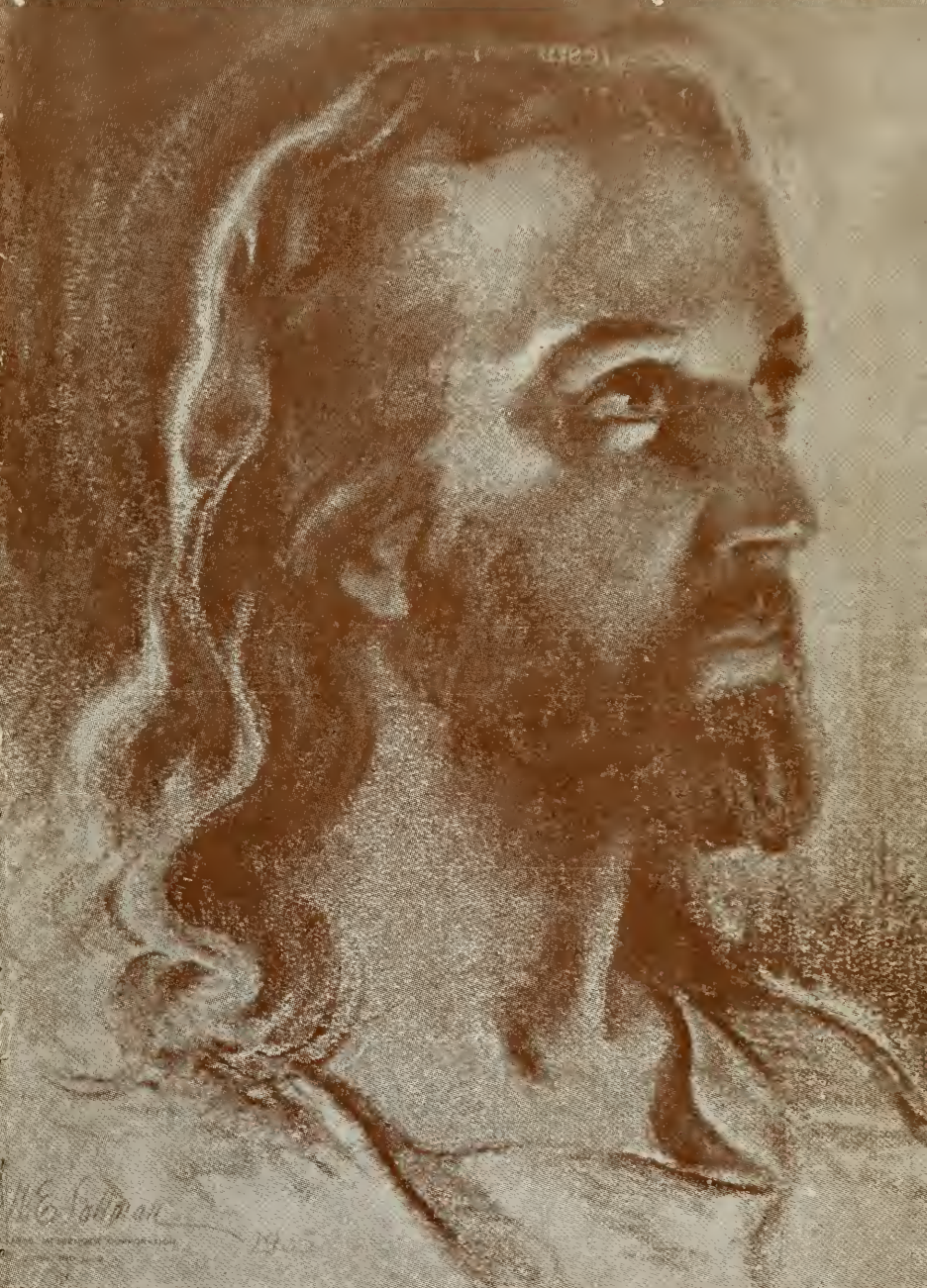
Millennial Star



Vol. 102, No. 51 Thursday, December 19, 1940

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

Jesus Of Nazareth

LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE ROMAN SENATE PUBLISHED BY FABRICUS, PUBLIUS LENTULUS, GOVERNOR OF JUDEA AND FRIEND OF PONTIUS PILATE.

Greetings,

Here, Oh Cæsar, is the reply which thou desirest. A man has appeared gifted with exceptional powers. He is called the Great Prophet. His disciples call him the Son of God. His name is Jesus Christ. In truth, Oh Cæsar, every day we hear some new marvel of this Christ that he raises the dead, heals every infirmity and all Jerusalem marvels at his wonderful doctrine. He is of majestic aspect with a shining countenance full of goodness so that those who see him love and fear him at the same time. They say that his fair face with the beard divided in the middle is of incomparable beauty and no one can gaze long at him on account of his splendour. In his features, in his soft mild eyes and in his fair waving hair he resembles his Mother, who is the most beautiful and saddest figure of woman ever seen in these parts. In his sayings, just, grave and indisputable, there is the purest expression of virtue and wisdom, far surpassing that of the greatest geniuses. He is formidable in the force of his argument. In his teaching and exhortations he is mild, amiable, and full of grace. He walks barefooted and bareheaded, and seeing him from a distance many laugh at him, but in his presence they are astonished and tremble. No one ever sees him laugh but many have seen him weep. All those who have come into touch with him confess to having received blessing and sanctity. All the same I am molested by the evil tongued, who say that he is against thy Majesty, because he affirms that Kings and subjects are as one before God.

Command me with regard to him and thy orders shall be promptly obeyed.

VALE, Publius Lentulus,
Proconsul of Judea.

1840 Hundredth Year of Publication 1940

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

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★

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, they are life.
—John 6: 63.

To All

A Merry Christmas

From The "Millennial Star"

And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger . . .

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

* * * * *

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU: NOT AS THE WORLD GIVETH, GIVE I UNTO YOU. LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET IT BE AFRAID.

Christmas Greetings From The British Missionaries

ETHEL S. SCOTT and ISABELLA MACDONALD from the Scottish District;
MELVIN W. DUNN, SAMUEL W. DYSON, E. JOHN S. JONES, VIOLET GRUNDY THOMAS and GWENDOLINE C. FARMER from the Birmingham District;
JAMES P. HILL, JAMES R. CUNNINGHAM, FRANK HATTON-WARD, ALBERT H. WILLMOTT, WINIFRED A. OSBORN and LOUISA R. LAWMAN from the London District;
ETHEL BAILEY, Junr., and RALPH BURTON from the Sheffield District;
WILLIAM W. FRANCE, Junr., from the Newcastle District;
WM. TAYLOR-SMITH and HARRY LAYCOCK from the Leeds District.

WE are very happy indeed to have this opportunity to send through the pages of the "Millennial Star" our Christmas Greetings and Sincere Good Wishes to all the Saints, friends and relatives. It is our sincere hope and prayer that you will spend this Christmas-tide in peace and safety, that the danger that is present will not disturb the Christmas Spirit of this land.

Our minds and hearts are full of gratitude to our Heavenly Father for the opportunity we have in labouring as missionaries in His vineyard. We send our love and affection to our parents, who are working hard to keep some of us in the mission field; to our brothers and sisters at home we wish a really happy time. To our personal friends and those we have made in the mission field we especially wish to be remembered.

If it were not for the sacrifice of some of the members of the Church in contributing towards the District Missionary Fund, some of us would not have this privilege to be missionaries; to them we send our blessings; to them, as well as to our parents, we wish to say as of one mind and heart, "You shall in no wise lose your reward."

To our equals in the Church, young men and women, we send our word of encouragement: "Prepare yourself to fulfil a mission in the Church." You will never forget the joy, the manifestation of the Spirit of the Lord, the love of service and that happiness that creeps into your heart after you have laboured diligently among your fellowmen and witnessed their response to your pleadings, your testimonies and your service as humble missionaries.

"The field is white ready to harvest"; there are countless opportunities for everyone to testify of the blessings of this Restored Gospel which we humbly proclaim to the world, and which will bring in the end the peace, perfect peace, and good will among men.

Christmas

THE author formed a close friendship with Elder Arthur Porter (former Associate-Editor of the "Star") when he was in England. Elder Porter is now engaged on the "Rexburgh Journal," a paper owned by his father, and this article was published in that journal.

IN Britain the 25th December was a festival long before the conversion to Christianity, but in 1644 the English Puritans, by Act of Parliament, forbade any merriment or religious services on the ground that it was a heathen festival, and ordered it to be kept as a fast. Charles II revived the feast, but the Scots adhered to the Puritan view. (Ency. Brit.) Even now the Scots do not pay as much regard to Christmas as do the English; the former keep New Year's Day as the greater festival.

Nowadays carols are largely associated with Christmas, and we read that bishops and clergy used to sing carols and play games on Christmas Day. The oldest known carol, written in England, exists in the Norman French language in a manuscript of the 13th century. In the time of King Henry VIII and later, it was one of the duties of the choir of the Chapel Royal to sing Christmas carols before the sovereign, and, with the exception of the Puritan ascendancy, carol singing has continued to the present day.

Singers, called "Waits," were originally night-guards at city gates, and were known as "wakemen" or watchmen. In the City of Ripon a horn is blown every night at 9 o'clock by a wakeman, in front of the Town Hall which bears the inscription, "Except ye Lord keep ye citie, ye wakeman waketh in vain."

Who does not remember the thrills during childhood of carols heard while snug in bed?

Underneath my window,
  Where the snow lies white,
I can hear sweet voices
  Singing in the night.
As the night wind varies,
  So they rise and fall,
In this quaint old carol,
  Joining one and all:

In the east a grey light
  Prophesies the morn,
Up, and hail the daylight—
  Christ the Lord is born.

As a child, how often
  Till the midnight dim,
Have I waked and waited
  For that Christmas hymn;
Heard the footsteps coming,
  Heard them stop beneath,
For the burst of music,
  Watched with bated breath:

Up, if one hath wronged thee,
  Be the wrong forgiven!
Up, if any love thee
  Render thanks to heaven.
So my heart interprets
  That old melody,
That beneath my window
  Voices sing to me.

(From "Home Words.")

There are many old legends about Christmas: one I will relate was come across during a vacation at Alderney, one of the four principal Channel Islands only nine miles from the

(Continued on page 871)

Message From The British Mission Relief Society Board

WE send our Christmas Greetings, love and affection to all women of the Church in the British Mission. We join in song and prayer with you in the expression of our gratitude and joy for the Immaculate Gift of the Father in the person of His Beloved Son to the children of men. We celebrate His birth and we revere His name as our Saviour and our Lord

We are happy in the knowledge that, in spite of the difficult and even dangerous times we are all going through, we have been spared the hand of the enemy. Not one of our faithful members has suffered death or serious injury in this struggle of the nation to withstand the evil designs of the enemy to destroy our traditional freedom to live and worship according to our individual wills.

We are happy in the realization that, in spite of many obstacles and great difficulties, the work of the Relief Society in the British Mission is being carried on in all the Branches. The sisters have faithfully upheld the Priesthood of the Church by supporting their own organization—the Women's Relief Society. Apart from carrying out the programme of spiritual development and education, sisters have done a great deal of useful work in providing warm knitted woollens for the comfort of the armed forces in conjunction with other national organizations. They have responded very splendidly to our appeal to gather clothing for the alleviation of suffering from cold among the many refugees who have sought the protection and the shelter of this country. Letters of deep appreciation are on record from various government institutions, who depend upon us to help them with the refugee problems. Regularly they come for more and more clothing as winter approaches.

We are happy in the knowledge that side by side with the Relief Society Board marches an army of relief society workers in this country, mothers, daughters, members of the Church, as well as a number of friends who love to associate themselves with us.

May this Christmas bring you joy in the realization that you have done your part in sustaining the work and the object of the Relief Society of the Church in Great Britain.

MARIE W. ANASTASIOU,
President of the British
Mission Relief Society Board.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Rights of Women, What are they?
The Right to labour, love, and pray;
The Right to weep with those that weep,
The Right to wake when others sleep.

The Right to dry the falling tear,
The Right to quell the rising fear;
The Right to smooth the brow of care,
And whisper comfort in despair.

The Right to watch the parting breath,
To soothe and cheer the bed of death;
The Right, when earthly hopes all fail,
To point to that within the veil.

The Right the wanderer to reclaim,
And win the lost from paths of shame;
The Right to comfort and to bless
The widow and the fatherless.

The Right the intellect to train,
And guide the soul to noble aim;
Teach it to rise above earth's toys
And wing its flight to heavenly joys.

The Right to live for those we love,
The Right to die, that love to prove;
The Right to brighten earthly homes
With pleasant smiles and gentle tones.

Are these thy Rights? Then use them well;
Their holy influence none can tell.
If these are thine, why ask for more?
Thou hast enough to answer for.

Are these thy Rights? Then murmur not
That Woman's mission is thy lot;
Improve the talents God has given;
Life's duties done, thy rest in heaven.

—Author Unknown.

★

A Christmas Message To All Sunday School Members In The British Mission

WE workers in the Sunday School have a special message to all people. It is "Teach the Children."

During Christ's ministry His love of children was made manifest in many touching instances. When the disciples turned away the throngs of children, did He not say, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not: for of such is the Kingdom of God."

Likewise, when He visited the Nephites on the Western Hemisphere, He took the little children, one by one, and blessed them, and angels came down and encircled those little ones about and did minister unto them.

How can we be more truly Christlike than by following His example, and bringing the little children unto Him, acting as His servants in ministering unto them?

The Christian world celebrates the birth of the Saviour next week. Let us celebrate by carrying the message of Truth as we know it to the children.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and much joy during this festive season.

THE BRITISH MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD.

For Those Not With Us

IN expressing the season's greetings on behalf of the Mutual Improvement Associations' Board, we are rather forcibly reminded that a large number of our male youth are serving their country in the Forces, and it is to be regretted that they are not with us to enjoy this festive occasion. We wonder, as we think of those many happy socials and dances mutually enjoyed by the young men and women of this land so many times, where our young men are and how they will spend their Christmastide. One of the outstanding characteristics of this Church is the amount of attention it devotes to its young people. Why? Because it believes in organised recreation, wholesome fun and frolics and cultural development for all. During these past months, as the young men have been gradually sapped from our midst, we have felt their loss and the absence of their leadership. We sincerely hope that these days to come when man will celebrate the greatest event the world has ever known, will be opportune days for them to pause and remember too.

Upon at least one Christmas during the war of 1914-18, the front lines of the enemy and our own army called an unofficial armistice and both fraternised in mutual appreciation of the spirit of the occasion. There are no front lines in this war—at least there are, but they are here, right on our doorstep. We are sure that we should like to call an unofficial armistice and fraternise with our brethren and sisters of all nations in the Church, but this cannot be. We earnestly hope that the Gospel of love, charity, peace and goodwill may be in the hearts of our young men in the Forces this Christmastide, even though conditions under which they are forced to spend it may not be entirely conducive. Our thoughts are for you, brethren, we wish that you were with us. May the Lord bless you and keep you, that you may soon return to your loved ones again.

★

CHRISTMAS

(Continued from page 868)

coast of France. "Why do not the old men see to their cows and sheep on Christmas night? Why does the old farmer always litter his cattle in broad day, instead of biding his usual time by the oil lamp? He dare not do otherwise, for, are not all cattle, that one night, on bended knees in mute adoration?"

Thomas Hardy's poem "The Oxen" well expresses this beautiful legend in the following words:—

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock,
"Now they are all on their knees"
An elder said, as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.
We pictured the meek, mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel
If someone said on Christmas Eve
"Come; see the oxen kneel
In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

A joyous Christmas time is one of the privileges of free nations. In contrast we can but think of the awful sufferings, in place of peace and goodwill, which are now being borne by millions of people, grounded down by tyrants whose "peace" is conquest and whose "good will" is difficult to discover.

J. A. P.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1940

EDITORIAL

For Unto You This Day Is Born A Saviour

"FOR unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

These words of the Prophet Isaiah were fulfilled when in the night, that has since been called the meridian of time, above the hills of Bethlehem appeared an angel of the Lord and announced the birth of the Saviour to the humble shepherds who kept watch over their flocks through the night. The glorious light which shone around and above them frightened them. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'"

Today we remember this great event with joy in our hearts, and although doubt and uncertainty reign in the hearts of men, the reality of the birth of our Lord is the only comforting and inspiring thought in the world today. In the midst of war, bloodshed, strife and commotion, the usual Christmas greetings may sound somewhat out of place. Nevertheless, the new light that dawned upon the world and was heralded by a multitude of heavenly hosts to impress upon those who were privileged to witness such a great event, will survive all the attempts of the adversary and all the obstacles of the mortal mind and heart, and will remain until the day when He who was born in such humble circumstances will again be heralded into this world of ours, returning in His full glory of Godhood, and will be beheld by multitudes of the earthly hosts as He descends from heaven to restore peace and unity among mankind.

The present condition of the world is a reminder to us that the events that will take place between now and His Second Coming have also been predicted by men inspired from on high. "All things shall be in commotion, and surely men's hearts shall fail them, for fear shall come upon all people." "For in

those days shall be affliction such as was not from the beginning of the Creation." "They shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, and they shall behold blood and fire and vapours of smoke." "The sun shall be darkened and the moon shall be turned into blood, and the stars shall fall from heaven."

"There shall be earthquakes also in diverse places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against Me and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another."

It is a source of gratitude in the hearts of Latter-day Saints who have the light of the message of the Restored Gospel, to remain faithful by the promises of the Lord through those whom He inspired to prophesy, not only in ancient times but in our day and age. The coming forth and the restoration of the Church and Kingdom of God in these the latter days through the humble instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith, opens to the world a new hope, kindles in the hearts of men a new faith, a new light shines in the darkness, and few there are and have been, who have accepted the testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

The Great Millennium which will be ushered in in the beginning of the seventh-thousand years is almost on our doorstep. The Lord, our God, will sanctify the earth and complete the Salvation of man. For the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest. Those who endure until the end shall be blessed with the privilege of dwelling upon the earth among the righteous, and enjoy the reward of their faith, humility, obedience and sacrifice.

So, in the knowledge of these great events which are yet to come, we take to our hearts a new hope, our faith is built up, and we rejoice, particularly on the day when we celebrate the Coming of the Lord in the meridian of time, His birth, life, death, and His resurrection.

Finally, this world will be redeemed from the hand of the enemy, from all mortal dross, corruption, and imperfections, and the Saints of the most high shall inherit this earth in its Celestialized condition as their Eternal abode. There shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things shall pass away and the Lord will make all things new. And there shall be no night there; and we shall need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord, our God, who will dwell in our midst, shall give us of His light and of His glory. In His presence we shall rejoice and we shall indeed be glad to call Him Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Then, and only then, among those who have been willing to accept the Restored Gospel which we humbly preach, there shall be perfect love, perfect peace and joy everlasting.

—A. K. Anastasiou.

Literary Contest Winners

FIRST prize in the Poetry Section of the Christmas Contest has been awarded to Sister Violet Coleby of the Lowestoft Branch for her poem entitled "Question?" Second prize goes to Brother (Private) Charles Garradley-Armstrong for his "Christmas, 1940?" Third prize is for Rosalie Walker, 13-year-old poetess of Sunderland for a very commendable effort. In view of her youth it has been decided to award her a special prize instead of a free "Star" subscription as advertised. She will therefore receive a copy of Nephi Anderson's "Young Folks' History of the Church."

In the Story section, it was not so easy to decide upon the winner, as two very good efforts vied for first place. It was however agreed to give the first prize to Sister Vera Thistleton for the story "Conversion." Second prize goes to Sister Margaret Walker; while third prize is awarded to Elder E. John S. Jones who, in view of the fact that he is a Missionary, will receive a special prize of the book "Joseph Smith's Teachings."

The first prize story and poem are published in this issue and the prizes given are: first, in both sections, a copy of the book, "Testimonies of the Leaders of the Church"; second in both sections, "In Search of Truth," by Elder John A. Widtsoe.

The "Star" congratulates the winners and thanks all who took part in the contest, and would like to say to those unsuccessful entrants this time, "Try again—better luck next time!"

Conversion

By Vera Thistleton

First Prize, Story Contest

THE two children had been evacuated from London since August and were now living at the lovely country home of Sir James Stewart.

Sir James had not wanted these children. He was a very hard, stern man, but after seeing Ruth and David Brown, he gave in to the pleading Officer-in-Charge. The children stood in awe of him at first, but after he had visited them in the nursery a few times and talked with them, they soon became at ease with him.

After a week or two, in spite of himself, Sir James found how much he looked forward to these evenings spent in the nursery. He thoroughly enjoyed romping and playing games with the children. Ruth was nine and was very intelligent and had a straight-forward, direct manner with her. Sir James enjoyed talking to her and during one of these conversations, Ruth told how their Mother was a widow, their Daddy having died

some years previously after being badly crippled in a motor accident. Their Mother took in sewing and had to work very hard to earn sufficient to keep them all. Ruth and David told Sir James they were Latter-day Saints and asked if they might attend the nearest meeting hall. Their Mother had told them not to forget their religion.

Sir James did not believe his ears. He asked them again the name of the meeting hall. He was shocked. His face bore a reflection of bitter thought; but as his eyes met those of the children, innocently and expectantly looking at him, he repressed his impulse and felt he could hardly refuse their request. It was getting cold weather and, observing their threadbare clothing, Sir James instructed his housekeeper to take the children and get them fitted out in warm clothing, and to spare no expense.

Ruth and David enjoyed this shopping expedition. They were very eager that evening to show their clothes to Sir James, who felt quite proud of them. Before saying good-night, he told them both to be ready early on Sunday as he was going to take them to the Latter-days' meeting hall, saying he would also stay and see what the service was like.

Sunday morning found them waiting outside for Sir James, who saw them from the library window. He thought what a credit they were to their Mother: they were so good-mannered and well-spoken. He almost wished they were his own grandchildren.

Sir James felt very strange at his first Latter-day Saint meeting: everything was so different from the church he always attended. However, he had pleased the children, and he decided he would go again.

The following Sunday evening he took the children again. The theme for the evening talks was "Tithing." Sir James was very interested, and invited the Branch President back to the Manor for a chat. The President became a regular visitor at the Manor, the two men spending pleasant hours discussing "Mormonism."

One evening toward Christmas time, Sir James confessed to the President how hard he had been to his only daughter. He had lost his wife when Molly was only sixteen. From that time, he and Molly had been inseparable companions until she had gone to spend a holiday with an Aunt down South and there she had met a fellow, earning very little and a member of the Mormon Church. Sir James was furious with her and told her to come home at once. However, Molly was very much in love and married the fellow, and wrote home afterwards telling her father. Sir James told how he had refused to see the fellow and informed his daughter he had finished with her for good. That was twelve years ago now, and though Molly had written many times, he had always burnt her letters unopened. He was more than sorry now and was determined to find his daughter and her husband.

The next day Sir James went to see his Solicitor, and

(Continued on page 877)

Question ?

First Prize, Poetry Contest

Can Christmas hold a message sweet,
In a world gone mad with War?
Can there shine a glimmer yet,
Of Bethlehem's wondrous Star?

Yes, it shines as bright today
As on that joyful night
When Wise Men to the Stable came,
Guided by its Light.

"Glory to God," the Angels sang,
"Peace on Earth to Men":
But earth is filled with War today;
Where does the Star shine then?

Its message shines in Hearts today
Who know the promise sure,
Peace and Goodwill shall truly come,
And Earth made clean and pure.

The Lord of whom the Angels sang,
Shall come to earth again,
Not as Babe in swaddling clothes,
But KING to rule and reign.

Be patient Saints, a little while,
Make ready for that day,
Let Peace within your Hearts abide,
The Gospel points the way.

—Violet Coleby,
Lowestoft Branch.

★

DEATHS

WOODRUFF—Brother George William Woodruff passed away Saturday, November 23rd, aged 58 years. The interment took place November 27th at Gee Cross, Hyde.

PIERPOINT—Brother Melvin Pierpoint, Driver in the R.A.S.C., passed away after a short illness at the the age of 24 years. He was buried on Saturday, December 7th, at Preston Cemetery, District President P. L. Cookman conducting the service. Brother H. D. Foster dedicated the grave.

CONVERSION

(Continued from page 875)

requested him to try and find his daughter. On his way home he bought many presents for the children and ordered a huge Christmas tree. That evening he helped Ruth and David to decorate the nursery. He even told them to write and invite their Mother for Christmas. The children were so excited, they could hardly sleep that night.

Monday morning Sir James drove them down to the Station to meet their Mother. They both looked much better for living in the country and Mrs. Brown scarcely recognised them in their new outfits. As she bent over them they hugged and kissed her, and it was some time before she was free to speak to Sir James. When she did, he was overcome with emotion and he could hardly believe his eyes, for there stood his daughter, Molly.

After the children had gone to bed that night, Father and daughter had a lot to talk about. Molly told how she had not known what to do when she heard where Ruth and David had been evacuated to. She said how she had knelt down and asked God what she should do. Her prayer was answered when Ruth wrote and told her how happy they were and how good Sir James was to them. She knew then that they had been sent to her Father's house by God for a purpose.

They talked, too, of the Gospel and Molly realised her father was a changed man.

What a happy Christmas they all spent, and the President was there also. Sir James thought it was fine dressing up and being Santa Claus. He told them all that this must be their home in future, and Molly's happiness was made complete when later on in the evening she heard Sir James ask the President if he could be baptized the following Sunday, and, "Oh! by the way," he said, "here is my tithing."

★

ASSIGNMENTS—NEW MISSIONARIES

On Saturday, November 9th, at the Missionary Convention in Rochdale, Sister Ethel Bailey, daughter of President Bailey of the Sheffield District, was set apart as a Missionary and assigned to labour in the Liverpool District, to which district she has since travelled and taken up her calling.

Sister Louise Lawman of the North London Branch was set apart on Saturday, December 7th, and has joined Sister Baily in the Liverpool District.

Brother Ralph Burton of the Doncaster Branch was set apart at Rochdale on November 9th, and is now labouring with Brother Albert Willmott in the Manchester District.

Brother William Taylor-Smith was set apart on November 10th at Rochdale, and is now labouring in the London District in company with Brother Harry Laycock, who was ordained an Elder and set apart on Monday, December 9th. Both are from the Leeds District.

★

DOINGS IN THE DISTRICTS

Sheffield

On Saturday, November 30th, Doncaster Branch held a social to raise funds for prizes for the Sunday School children at Christmas. The entire programme was under the direction of Mr. J. Johnson who, although not a member, very kindly gave his services and was responsible for a most enjoyable evening spent in games and various items including a camp-fire sing-song.

★

A Christmas Thought

FLYING snow and holly berries, clearer sight and keener minds—all are indications of the Christmas season. The exuberance of spring has ebbed; the languor of summer has vanished; the haze of autumn has cleared; and the vigour of winter sends new blood coursing through our veins.

Clearer sight and keener minds should stimulate clearer and keener insight into the fundamentals of living. Those who live and work with young people should turn their eyes critically inward, particularly at this season, and let the mind register truly what the eye sees. Crying needs in the world today demand our best thinking and clear vision in directing these young folk. They must be shown the only way of life. They are now embarking on their journey. Their vessel may be ever so seaworthy, but there are those external forces which will assail them unless we keep the lighthouse of our love burning brightly. Fogs of despair will arise around them, but the beam of our light can penetrate the mists; cross-currents of worldly beliefs will sweep over them from every direction and make them lose their way, unless we have given them the true course to follow; waves of disbelief will buffet them from the charted way, unless we have provided them with the compass of faith; reefs of ignorance will offer hazards unless we have given them the sure knowledge of true principles; the tides of indolence may sweep their frail barques into a backwash and stagnation unless we keep the lighthouse of our and their faith replenished from the Giver of Eternal Light and Life.

At this season when our thoughts are turned naturally to Him in whose name we call upon the Father of us all, let us resolve that we will chart our own and others' courses more clearly, that we may follow in the way He showed and reach the harbour where He awaits those who sail the true course.—M. C. J.

The Prophet Joseph Smith, Restorer

By President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

"IF any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1: 5.) So spake the Apostle of old, James "the Lord's brother," (Gal. 1: 19; Matt. 13: 55; Mark 6: 3), in one of the greatest, if not the greatest, passages of scripture of all time, for it ushered in and is the key to the last dispensation. It declared not only that the heavens were not closed to God's children, but that God would liberally give wisdom to anyone for the asking.

Joseph, a lad of fourteen, in great spiritual distress, read and believed; he asked in simple and full faith; he was answered, even as was his faith, with a vision that has no counterpart in all history, for God the Father and the Son, two resurrected, glorified beings, came to him, and God Himself said to this humble, unlearned boy, "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him!" and the Son declared to the boy his mission.

The Bible tells us that God twice so proclaimed the Messiahship of Jesus while Jesus was in mortality. Once when He spoke from the heavens as witness to the baptism of Jesus by John, saying: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"; and again, in the same words as in Joseph's vision, when He spoke to Peter, James, and John as Jesus "was transfigured before them." (Mark 9: 2-13.)

Joseph's vision was just as plain and simple a fact as the mighty visions at Sinai when Moses saw the Lord "face to face." (Num. 14: 14; Deut. 5: 4)—Moses "whom the Lord knew face to face." (Deut. 34: 10.)

SAME CHRIST

This boy saw the same Christ who, on the road to Damascus, came to Paul as he, journeying to persecute the Saints, suddenly was bathed in a shining light, brighter than the noonday sun, and he and they who were with him fell to the ground. (Act. 9: 1-7; 22: 6-14; 26: 12-19.)

Joseph heard the same voice which was heard in the Wilderness when "the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." (Exodus 33: 11.)

The boy heard the same voice which asked of Paul,—"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (Acts 26: 14), and which declared to Paul, "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom thou persecutest." (Acts 22: 8.)

It was as real and divine a speaking as came to the boy Samuel in the Temple when the Lord rejected the sons of Eli on account of their wickedness, and chose Samuel in their places. (1 Samuel 3: 1-15.)

Thus gloriously opened the Last Dispensation—the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times.

GREW IN FAVOUR

From this time on, Joseph, the lad, like Samuel the child of old, grew in the favour of the Lord, his wisdom was multiplied, his power was magnified.

As the Lord spoke and commanded about their appointed work unto Noah, to Abraham, "the friend of God," (James 2: 25; Isaiah 41: 8), and to Moses, to whom God spake "as a man speaketh unto his friend," (Exodus 33: 11), so the Lord spoke and gave commandment to Joseph, from time to time, making plain his mind and will as need arose. The Lord sent to Joseph holy messengers who gave him their ministration. Through Joseph, by the translation of the Book of Mormon and by direct revelation, the Lord revealed the fulness of the Gospel of Salvation. To Joseph and Oliver the Lord sent John the Baptist, who restored to the earth the Aaronic Priesthood. Through Joseph and Oliver, under the hands and authority of Peter, James, and John, the Lord restored to the earth the Priesthood, "after the order of Melchizedek," (Heb. 5: 10), the Holy Priesthood after the order of the Son of God, (Doc. and Cov. 107: 3). Thus came the Priesthood again to earth, by a clear and unbroken line.

The Lord so shaped and fashioned the youth's mind, so built his courage, so gave him wisdom, so endowed him with faith, that at twenty-five he was Jehovah's chosen instrument to set up Christ's Church in the latter days, which Church is never again to be thrown down or given to another people.

Joseph led his people from New York to Ohio, thence to Missouri, and back to Illinois. Want and suffering were the constant and chastening companions of all who accepted his message.

CAUSE GROWS

Persecution followed fast in their marches; it threatened to wipe them from the earth. Slander, villification, false witness, mobbings, murder, dogged their every footstep.

But the cause grew.

The death net closing about him, Joseph started westward, intending his people to follow. Charged with cowardly forsaking them, he returned to the Saints, saying that if his life was worth nothing to them, it was worth nothing to him. As he went to give himself up upon trumped-up charges, he said, "I go as a lamb to the slaughter."

Then came the end. Assassins killed him. The Cause was watered by the blood of martyrs. Joseph and Hyrum, brothers in life and in death, sealed their testimonies with their blood.

This was the full answer to every calumny that a wicked and adulterous world had heaped upon him. God took them when their labour was done.

But the work went on. God's plans will not fail; His will shall not be bent nor turned aside; His purposes shall not be brought to naught. As Joseph said, his name is known for good and for evil throughout the wide world. The Church rolls on to fill the whole earth. God grant that we, too, like Joseph and Hyrum, may keep the faith, even unto death, if God wills.

JOSEPH SMITH

Born December 23rd, 1805

AN UNPUBLISHED PROPHECY BY JOSEPH SMITH

I have long felt that my present work was almost done and that I should soon be called to rule a mighty host, but something whispers me it will be in the land of spirits where the wicked cease from troubling and the bands of the prisoners fall off. . . .

I can claim face to face the fulfilment from Him who is a covenant keeping God and who performeth and faileth not to the uttermost. The wolves are upon the scent and I am waiting to be offered up, if such be the will of God, knowing that though my visage be marred more than that of any, it will be unseared and fair when archangels shall place on my brow the double crown of martyr and king in a heavenly world.—From a letter by Joseph Smith, June 18th, 1844.

Martyred June 27th, 1844

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